

Introductory Psychology

Description of the Examination

The Subject Examination in Introductory Psychology covers material usually taught in a one-semester undergraduate course in introductory psychology. It stresses basic facts, concepts, and generally accepted principles. Among the topics included on the exam are learning and cognition, behavior, personality, abnormal behavior, perception, motivation and emotion, and developmental and social psychology.

The exam is 90 minutes long and contains approximately 100 multiple-choice questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Knowledge of terminology, principles, and theory
- Comprehension, evaluation, and analysis of problem situations
- Application of knowledge to new situations

The Introductory Psychology exam requires knowledge of the following areas of psychology.

Approximate Percent of Examination

8-9%	History, approaches, methods
8-9%	Biological bases of behavior
7-8%	Sensation and perception
5-6%	States of consciousness
10-11%	Learning
8-9%	Cognition
7-8%	Motivation and emotion
8-9%	Developmental psychology
7-8%	Personality
8-9%	Abnormal psychology
7-8%	Treatment of psychological disorders
7-8%	Social psychology
3-4%	Statistics, tests, and measurement

Approximate Percent of Examination 8-9% History, approaches, methods

History of psychology

Approaches: biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic

Research methods: experimental, clinical, correlational

Ethics in research

8-9% Biological bases of behavior

Neuroanatomy
Functional organization of the nervous system
Endocrine system
Physiological techniques
Genetics

7-8% Sensation and perception

Receptor processes: vision, audition
Sensory mechanisms: thresholds, adaptation
Other senses: kinesthetic, olfactory, gustatory
Perceptual development
Perceptual processes
Attention

5-6% States of consciousness

Sleep and dreaming
Hypnosis and meditation
Psychoactive drug effects

10-11% Learning

Biological bases
Classical conditioning
Operant conditioning
Cognitive processes in learning

8-9% Cognition

Cognitive development
Memory
Language
Thinking and problem solving
Intelligence and creativity

7-8% Motivation and emotion

Biological bases
Theories of motivation
Theories of emotion
Hunger, thirst, sex, pain
Social motivation

8-9% Developmental psychology

Theories of development
Dimensions of development: physical, cognitive, social, moral
Research methods: longitudinal, cross-sectional
Heredity-environment issues
Gender identity and sex roles

7-8% Personality

- Personality theories and approaches
- Assessment techniques
- Research methods: idiographic, nomothetic
- Self-concept, self-esteem
- Growth and adjustment

8-9% Abnormal psychology

- Theories of psychopathology
- Anxiety disorders
- Affective disorders
- Dissociative disorders
- Somatoform disorders
- Personality disorders
- Psychoses

7-8% Treatment of psychological disorders

- Insight therapies: psychodynamic/humanistic approaches
- Behavioral therapies
- Cognitive therapies
- Biological therapies
- Community and preventative approaches

7-8% Social psychology

- Group dynamics
- Attribution processes
- Interpersonal perception
- Conformity, compliance, obedience
- Attitudes and attitude change
- Aggression/Antisocial behavior

3-4% Statistics, tests, and measurement

- Samples, populations, norms
- Reliability and validity
- Descriptive statistics
- Inferential statistics
- Types of tests
- Theories of intelligence
- Mental retardation

Study Resources

To prepare for the Introductory Psychology exam, you should study the contents of at least one textbook used in introductory psychology courses. Visit your local college bookstore to determine which textbooks are used by the college for introductory psychology courses. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the "Knowledge and Skills Required" section. Because they may vary somewhat in content,

approach, and emphasis, you are advised to consult more than one textbook on the major topics.

You will find it helpful to supplement your reading with books listed in the bibliographies found in most psychology textbooks. The Internet is another resource you should explore.